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AUTHOR McDermott, Marie
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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is to determine what percentage of a graduating class entered Hofstra as freshmen. Five graduating classes were selected for this investigation (1970, 1969, 1968, 1967, 1966) in the hope of revealing year-to-year changes in the precentages and for verification of results. Although the scope of this study is limited, it has provided important and consistent information. Approximately 50% of all Hofstra graduates were also Hofstra freshmen. In addition, about 22% of the Hofstra freshmen-graduates took more than 4 years to graduate. The greatest single proportion (about 45%) of the graduating transfers entered Hofstra 2 years before graduation, with most of them having between 61 and 80 credits. The smallest number of transfers entered Hofstra either 5 years or 1 year before graduation. (HS)

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CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF HIGHER EDUCATION

HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY

Proportion of Hofstra Freshmen in Graduating Classes

Marie McDermott

There are still important gaps in our knowledge about the basic characteristics of the students here at Hofstra University. The first step in filling in these gaps is the determination of base line data concerning known characteristics of these students.

The purpose of the present study was to determine what percentage of a graduating class who entered Hofstra as freshmen. Five graduating classes were selected for this investigation (1970, 1969, 1968, 1967, 1966) in order to reveal year to year changes in the percentages and for verification of results. Since the transcripts of the students in the most recent three classes were readily available, samples of 100 students each were selected for the other two classes.

For each graduating class the number and percentage of Hofstra freshmen was tallied and the year of entrance at Hofstra was noted.

The results of the study are shown in Table 1.

Table 1

Percentages of Hofstra Freshmen in
Each of Five Graduating Classes

Class	Total Sample	3 Year Grads.	4 Year Grads.	5 Year Grads.	6 Year Grads.	All Grads.
1966	100	11	30	5	6	52
1967	100	4	39	3	5	51
1968	828	2	39	5	6	52
1969	873	2	38	6	6	52
1970	844	2	34	7	4	47
FIVE CLASSES	2,745	2	37	6	5	50

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About 50% of all Hofstra graduates were also Hofstra freshmen. The percentages only ranged from 47% to 52% showing a high degree of consistency from year to year. Thirty-nine percent of Hofstra graduates were Hofstra freshmen graduating within four years.

Table 2 presents the numbers and percentages of Hofstra freshmen who graduated based on the number of years it took them to graduate. Contrary to Table 1 where the total N was based on the number of students in the entire graduating class, Table 2 shows only the Hofstra freshmen graduates.

Table 2

Years to Graduation of Students who entered Hofstra as Freshmen

Class	Total Sample %	3 Year Grads. %	4 Year Grads. %	5 Year Grads. %	6 Year Grads. %	All Grads. %
1966	52	21	58	10	11	100
1967	51	8	76	6	10	100
1968	429	4	75	10	11	100
1969	452	4	73	12	11	100
1970	400	4	73	15	8	100
FIVE CLASSES	1,384	5	73	12	10	100

As shown in Table 2, about 78% of these Hofstra freshmen-graduates graduated within four years. Thus, about 22% of the students who enter Hofstra as freshmen and graduate from this school take more than four years to get the degree. The range of these percentages was narrow (16% to 23%) again showing a high degree of consistency.

Transfers in the graduating classes. A second phase of this study involved collecting data on the transfers who were in the 1968, 1969 and 1970 graduating classes. Since about 50% of each of these graduating classes were Hofstra freshmen, naturally, the other 50% were transfers. The question was raised as to when these transfers entered Hofstra and with how many credits.

The transcripts of the transfers in each of the three graduating classes were inspected and the date of entrance and number of credits upon entrance were noted. The results of this investigation are shown in Tables 3, 4, and 5. These three tables show the percentage of transfer students who graduated in each of the three classes, and the percentages within each of the three tables are based on their year of entrance and their number of credits upon entrance.

Table 3

Advanced Standing and Year of Entrance of 1968
Graduating Transfer Students

Year of Entrance	30 or less %	31-50 %	51-60 %	61-70 %	71 + %	Total N	Total %
1962 or before	3	4	1	1	2	42	11
1963	1	1	1	0	0	10	3
1964	3	2	1	0	1	30	7
1965	15	11	4	1	2	134	33
1966	1	6	17	17	4	182	45
1967	0	0	0	0	1	4	1
TOTAL	23	24	24	19	10	402	100

Table 4

Advanced Standing and Year of Entrance of 1969
Graduating Transfer Students

Year of Entrance	30 or less %	31-50 %	51-60 %	61-70 %	71 + %	Total N	Total %
1963 or before	3	1	0	1	0	22	5
1964	1	1	0	0	0	8	2
1965	3	2	1	0	2	30	8
1966	16	10	5	4	1	154	36
1967	0	6	17	19	5	196	47
1968	0	0	0	0	2	10	2
TOTAL	23	20	23	24	10	420	100

Table 5

Advanced Standing and Year of Entrance of 1970
Graduating Transfer Students

Year of Entrance	30 or less %	31-50 %	51-60 %	61-70 %	71 + %	Total N	Total %
1964 or before	2	3	2	1	1	37	9
1965	2	1	1	1	0	18	5
1966	4	2	1	2	2	47	11
1967	9	10	4	4	2	128	29
1968	0	8	16	16	3	193	43
1969	0	0	0	1	2	15	3
TOTAL	17	24	24	25	10	438	100

The results shown in Tables 3, 4, and 5 are consistent with each other and with the expected outcome. The greatest proportion (about 45%, ranging from 43% to 47%) of the graduating transfers entered Hofstra two years before graduation with most of them (ranging from 74% to 75%) having between 51 and 70 credits. The second greatest proportion (about 33%, ranging from 29% to 36%) of the graduation transfers entered Hofstra three years before graduation with most of them having 50 or less credits (ranging from 66% to 79%). The fewest transfers entered Hofstra five years before graduation (from 2% to 5%) and one year before graduation (from 1% to 3%).

Although the scope of this study is limited, it has provided important and consistent information. Approximately 50% of all Hofstra graduates were also Hofstra freshmen. In addition, about 22% of the Hofstra freshmen-graduates took more than four years to graduate. The greatest single proportion (about 45%) of the graduating transfers entered Hofstra two years before graduation with most of them having between 61 and 80 credits. The smallest number of transfers entered Hofstra five years or one year before graduation.